Yi2
7400
F 10

1807

~~[illegible]~~
Dr Hosack

Gentlemen

The course of lectures you are now assembled to hear will consist of what are called the Institutes of medicine & the practice of physic.

In the Institutes of medicines are included Physiology - Pathology & therapeuticks.

- Physiology considers the functions of the body in its healthy state.

Pathology considers the causes & seats of diseases.

Therapeuticks treats of the general principles ~~of~~ or indications of cure ~~of~~ of diseases.

The Practice of physic~~k~~ applies remedies ~~to~~ unfolded by therapeuticks, to particular diseases - to their symptoms, & to the debility which precedes & follows them.

I shall begin with Physiology. I am aware ~~that~~ this important branch of

branch of medical Science is considered as uncertain by some physicians & as useless and delusive by others. The late Dr Wm Hunter has even treated it with contempt in one of his introductory lectures.— But Quit: ~~the Science should not suffer from this cause~~. ~~I sa~~ ~~It~~ I maintain its usefulness from ~~What~~ the immense services it has rendered to all the branches of medicine. ~~The~~ Our knowledge of the circulation of the blood, is a part of physiology, and how extensive has been ~~its~~ the application of this discovery to Surgery and the practice of physic! our knowledge of the uses of

the Lymphatics, - of the functions of the ſkin - of the influence of the air upon the blood & of the uses of the viscera, are all parts of physiology - and equally important with ~~the~~ our knowledge of the Circulation of the blood in ~~leading~~ teaching us ~~to~~ the Causes & Cure of Diseases.

- It is true we are ignorant of the uses of th the different portions of the brain, but this does not militate against the utility of our knowledge of the parts of the body that have been named, any more than our ignorance of the qualities of certain unknown

plants, militates against our knowledge of the efficacy of the poppy, of Jalap, of Rhubarb or of the peruvian Bark.

It is said in order to depreciate Physiology, that Dr Haller who spent his life in physiological inquiries, was no physician & that he was remarkably ~~a~~ ~~an~~ unsuccessful ~~physician~~ in his practice. What proves too much proves nothing at all. The late Dr Chovet of this city was ~~one of the~~ a most minute and correct Anatomist, and yet he was ~~as acknowledged by all the physi~~ known to be deficient in practical know=
=ledge in Medicine. His recipes and other prescriptions furnished matter for ridicule wherever they were

seen, or mentioned, and yet who will say upon this account that a minute ~~want~~ & correct knowledge of anatomy ~~is not~~ prevents a ~~man~~ physician becoming eminent in his profession? I might go on and mention the names of ~~remark that sev~~ several eminent Chemists, & Botanists who have been bad physicians - and yet who will dare to say they were made so by their knowledge of Chemistry or Botany? - It is *possible* Dr Haller was deficient in those qualities of mind or temper, that constitute an acute & sagacious physician, but it is more *probable* his ~~was~~ want of success in

his practice was occasioned by his permitting his physiological studies so far to abstract his Attention from ~~his~~ ~~the practice of physic, and~~ his Duties to ~~of~~ his patients so as to prevent his being acquainted with the numerous & minute Details that are necessary to constitute a great or successful physician.

Whatever may be the ~~fate~~ issue of my attempts to teach Physiology, I shall not shrink from the Undertaking from all that has been said of its uncertainty, or inutility. Indeed I consider myself as bound to Undertake it not only by the duty I owe to the Science of

& simple Anatomy, or the nomenclature of bones, Muscles, Blood vessels, nerves & viscera, ~~is nothing but the~~ may be compared to the Alphabet. It is by means of physiology that that Alphabet is converted into language. Again Anatomy may be compared to the outlines of ~~a picture~~ portrait, ~~who~~ perfectly correct in its size and figure, but it is ~~which~~ physiology ~~may~~ which gives that picture ~~its~~ colouring, and its countenance. From this view of the importance and

medicine, but by the respect I owe
to the importance of the anatomical Chair in this
University, for if ~~life be not informed~~ the uses and
functions of the parts which will
be demonstrated ~~to you~~ in the anatomical
theatre be not explained to you as far
as they are capable of being explained,
all the knowledge you will acquire
there, will ~~be so useless to you~~ profit you but little as phy-
-sicians. It will resemble the four
and twenty letters of the alphabet, lying
~~both loosely together~~ unconnected upon a table. It is
by means of physiology only that they
can be ~~connected together into words,~~ converted into language.
~~Sentences and books, so as to become~~

Utility of physiology ~~I hope [illegible] you~~
will ~~apply with~~ ~~become with~~ ~~the~~ ~~your find~~ closest,
~~of attention~~ to this, branch ~~of your studies~~ us.
— ~~I dare not promise you a complete~~
you will see the necessity of connecting it
with
~~the~~ study of Anatomy. ~~If~~ Indeed they
should always go hand in hand in
a medical education, ~~they [illegible]~~. One
remark more shall close this subject.
— that is ~~you~~ ~~the~~ study of physiology
or the Uses particular is by far the
most entertaining branch ~~part~~ of medicine.
~~This~~ has often been acknowledged not only by physi-
-cians, and ~~But so often~~ but by the
members of other professions -- hence ~~the~~ ~~here~~ ~~have~~
~~his wisdom and goodness discoverable~~ it has
been appealed to by Divines, as contain-
-ing

~~profitable to Doctors and others~~. —

Upon the subject of Physiology it is common
for young ~~Gentlemen~~ to ask what books they shall
read. I am sorry to say I cannot recommend
any to you that accord with the principles & Objects
of this science which will be delivered from this Chair +
Dr Haller's Elementa Physiologiae in 8 quarto is an En-
-cyclopaedia upon this subject, but it is
too extensive to be read in the course of a
winter. There is an English Abridgment
of it in two Vol: 8vo which may be consulted
with advantage — Blumenbach's & Richerand's physiology
is likewise worth your reading ~~It may be~~
~~had at Mr Dobson's, translated by Dr Caldwell~~
~~but also Richerand's~~ the Latter ~~cannot be~~ ~~a work~~
~~more~~ ~~your reading~~ preferred. a more minute
+ for I shall include in it ~~the~~
history of the faculties & operations of the
human mind that is to be found in any of the
common systems ~~of~~ physiology.

Stronger ~~proo~~ proofs of the existence - power & wisdom - & goodness of a Deity than any other part of the material Creation.

In defending ~~the~~ theory, I have Gent: admitted many of them to be erroneous, but in this I have conceded more than was just; for most of the theories that have existed in me=-dicine, are nothing but a collection of supposed ~~false~~ facts. For Example. Dr Boerhaave's theory of fever is derived from ~~consists~~ ~~in~~ morbific matter, and lentor in the blood. This morbific matter he supposed to be expelled in the Sweats & Sediment in the Urine which take place in the crisis of fevers. ~~and~~ now This is a false fact if I may be allowed the expression, for the matter thus discharged, is nothing but One of the Component parts of the blood, ~~dis~~ conveyed out of the body ~~=charged~~ in Consequence of the restoration of natural action ~~to~~ in the capillary vessels of the skin, and in the blood vessels of the kidneys. ~~The~~ It is equally false ~~nor is the lentor the cause~~

that a lentor in the blood is the Cause of fever; for this lentor is what we now call size, or buff; and which is not the Cause but the Effect of fever. ~~The again~~ again: Dr Cullen in his theory of fever places the proximate Cause of it ~~fever~~ in a Spasm in ~~the~~ extremities of the blood vessels, in every part of the body, especially on the Skin. now *no such* Spasm takes place except during the chilly fit of a fever, and ~~tt~~ in all those fevers ~~tt~~ which come on without a Chill, there is *no* Spasm ~~in~~ any where. ~~It is~~ one proof ~~hypothesis~~. Dr Brown ~~says~~ places the cause of fever in debility - now this is a *false* fact - Debility is only the predisposition of fever - ~~and~~ for fever consists in most cases, not in debility, but in morbid & preternatural ~~strength~~ action in the blood vessels, as I hope to prove to you hereafter.

Dr ~~Cullen has said, that~~ 16

~~I beg you would remember~~ I might thus go on & shew that a hundred other ~~theories~~ Collections of supposed facts, ~~which have have dignified with~~ upon particular dis=eases have been called theories, which are not entitled to ~~that epithet~~. I have said A theory is a general principle deduced from a number of ~~related~~ facts that are ally true. ~~Thus I say, the passions are partly stimulating & partly sedative in their operation upon the body. This is a theory upon the~~ If the facts be true, ~~the~~ the theory, or the general inference from them, will be true likewise — if otherwise, the theory will be false — From this you see there can be no false theory, without false, or supposed facts. Let the indolence ~~the~~ of phy=sicians who admit facts without sufficient examination, or the wickedness of physicians

& discover the certainty of our Science by predicting this fatal termination. Our inability to cure all diseases is a proof of only the imperfection of medicine, but even this imperfection, ~~of [illegible]~~ is ~~far~~ much less than it is supposed to be as far as it depends upon a physician. For few patients die of curable diseases, in which their deaths may not be traced to late delays in the application for medical aid – bad nursing, or disobedience to medical prescriptions.

In admitting the imperfection of medicine, we place it upon a footing with all other sciences. ~~The~~ Even the Science of Navigation is still imperfect, and yet we do not upon ~~that~~ account reject the advantages that ~~are~~ we derive from the magnet, the Quadrant & lunar Observations. ~~of the Ships that are lost at sea~~

who fabricate facts, alone be blamed for all our false theories, ~~[illegible]~~ and if ~~as~~ those false theories have done mischief in medicine, ~~let~~ those physicians only be blamed who have furnished the false foundations for them. It is to be ~~lamented~~ regretted that the ~~The~~ ~~the~~ ~~false~~ errors & fluctuation of ~~in~~ the theories, erected upon ~~an~~ supposed facts, have led to charges against the certainty & even usefulness of the science of medicine. Of its usefulness, I shall say nothing at present. Of ~~its~~ the ~~certainty~~ ~~Uncertainty~~ former charge agst it, I shall only remark that ~~the~~ its imperfection has been mistaken for its ~~certain~~ uncertainty. The ~~cases~~ instances in which physicians mistake a disease, or form a wrong judgement of its issue in life, or death are very few. ~~The~~ In those cases which they are unable to cure, they still

~~perhaps very~~ Of the few Ships that are lost, only meet with Accidents at sea, ~~from the Uncertainty of the Science of Navigation~~. most of them are, like the cases of patients in curable diseases, the result of ignorance, or carelessness. They ~~call in question the perfection~~ prove the imperfection only – not the Uncertainty of the Science of Navigation.

~~But Physiology~~ .. Pathology

"upon the subjects of ~~[illegible]~~ and "Therapeuticks, I know of no systematic books that I can recom=mend to your perusal. They are all built upon theories ~~in~~ which I ~~are~~ which I do believe, and wch are contrary to the principles upon those subjects which I shall teach from this Chair."

Upon the practice of Physic there are many excellent practical books which I shall mention to you when I come to that part

of our course. It is one, and but one of the modes of acquiring a knowledge of diseases. There are two other modes of acquiring that knowledge. These are from ~~b~~ public lectures, and = go to p: =